

Washington -- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez announced today that she has secured support for \$800,000 for Whittier College's East Asian Studies Program which will significantly add to the next generation of U.S. college graduates trained in this important security studies field.

"Whittier College students have so much to offer their communities and the nation," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez. "I am pleased that I was able to secure this funding for the college which will prepare the next generation of political and business leaders to compete internationally."

The funds, which were included in the Defense Appropriations bill, will allow Whittier College to expand its East Asian Studies Program and train a growing pool of U.S. academics and professionals with expertise in the People's Republic of China, North Korea, and other areas of East Asian security studies. The bill is expected to be passed soon by the Senate and be signed into law by the President.

"Congresswoman Sánchez has been a leader on behalf of Whittier College," said Dr. Sharon Herzberger, Whittier College President. "This funding will not only enhance our college programs, but send our students out better prepared to effectively promote U.S. interests in East Asia."

Funding for this program will expand language course development and create two language centers on campus, enhance international economics and military security curricula, and provide opportunities for Whittier College students to study abroad and participate in globalization conferences. This support also contributes to the economy and Whittier College, a major local employer and beneficiary to the community. Whittier College, the fourth most diverse national liberal arts college in the nation, has seen an increase in students' interest in East Asian Studies, with the number of students taking first year Chinese having almost doubled.

The Department of Defense has a longstanding tradition of funding academic research centers that train students and professors to become experts on areas of the world that are security challenges for the United States. "I am pleased that Whittier College will receive this national recognition and funding help to enhance programs that will be in our national interest," said Congresswoman Sánchez.